

Australia Celebrates Royal Visit

On July 8 Australia Post celebrated the recent royal visit to Australia of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (Prince William and Kate) and their young child, Prince George, with a new stamp release featuring memorable engagements during their visit.

Australia Post Philatelic Manager, Michael Zsolt, said the new stamp release commemorated the iconic images of the Royal family's visit to well-known Australian locations. "For many Australians a highlight of the visit was the family's visit to Taronga Zoo, where little Prince George was introduced to an inquisitive bilby, named in his honor," Mr Zsolt said.

"We are pleased to mark the royal visit to Australia of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince George with the release of this stamp issue and we trust this commemorative stamp issue will also be very popular. We are encouraging stamp collectors and followers of royal and special events to put their orders in early to avoid disappointment"

The 10-day visit to Australia by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their son began on April 6, 2014 when the family arrived in Sydney. The Royal couple also visited recent bushfire affected areas of the Blue Mountains, the RAAF base at Amberley in Brisbane, Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park, Adelaide and Canberra, where they attended



the dawn Anzac Day service at the Australian War Memorial.

This was the first official visit to Australia for the Duchess of Cambridge and the third for the Duke, who visited Queensland and Victoria as recently as March 2011. Prince William's first royal visit to Australia was as a nine-month-old in the company of his parents, The Prince and Princess of Wales (Charles and Diana), on their of-

ficial tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1983.

The new royal visit stamp release features engagements made by the royal family during their visit to Sydney and includes a domestic base-rate (70c) stamp and international rate (\$2.60) stamp.

The designer of the stamps is Simone Sakinofsky of the Australia Post Design Studio using photographs by Samir Hussein/WireImage (70c) and Chris Jackson/Getty Images (\$2.60).

The products associated with this stamp issue include a miniature sheet, first day cover, stamp pack, set of two maxicards, sheetlet of five \$2.60 self-adhesive stamps, gutter strips of 10 x 70c and 10 x \$2.60 stamps with design and a booklet of 10 x 70c self-adhesive stamps.

The Royal Visit stamp issue is available from Australia Post at www.auspost.com.au/stamps or contact Australia Stamp Agency in North America toll free (USA and Canada) on 1-800-443-4225 while stocks last.